Remarks

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Connor et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,306) in view of Wagner et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,434,928).

1. Request for Continued Examination:

The applicant respectfully requests continued examination of the above-indicated application, as per 37 CFR 1.114.

2. Amendments to the claims:

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating the limitations in claim 5, which is accomplished by adding a button clause, namely "a button installed on the housing for generating button signals". Claim 5 is therefore cancelled. Claim 1 is also amended by further adding limitations to the input panel clause, which is accomplished by limiting the input panel to being installed at a position on a top side of the housing other than the position of the button. Furthermore, a new claim 6 is added claiming a pointing device comprising a housing, a displacement signal generator, and an input panel. The input panel in claim 6 is used for inputting text data by working with word-processing software.

No new matter is introduced in the above claim amendments, which are fully supported by item 56 in Fig.2 and item 106 in Fig.3, and in the original written specification, particularly from line 32 of page 5 to line 3 of page 6. Reconsideration of the amended claim 1, the dependent claims 2 through 4, and the newly added claim 6 is hereby requested.

3. Rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Connor et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,306) in view of Wagner et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,434,928) for reasons of record, as recited in pages 2-3 of previous office action (part of paper number 4).

Response:

Claim 1 has been amended for a second time to overcome this rejection. Specifically, **claim 1 now contains a limitation stating that the input panel is installed on a top side of the housing. Claim 1 also contains another limitation stating that the input panel is positioned on the housing other than the position of the button.** Support for these changes can be seen in Fig.2 and Fig.3. The input panel 56 in Fig.2 and the input panel 106 in Fig.3 are both installed on a top side of the housings 52, 102, respectively. Also clearly shown in Fig.2 and Fig.3, the input panels 56, 106 are both positioned on the housings 52, 102 other than the positions of the buttons 58, 108, respectively.

On the other hand, O'Connor shows, in Fig.1, an actuation switch 109 including a transparent or frosted section or window area 111 which is arranged to receive a finger, and another window area 113 on the side of the mouse 101, which is located such that a user will naturally place a thumb on the area 113 when operating the mouse 101. Wagner shows handwritten data inputted to perform an identification process. **However, O'Connor does not teach or suggest an input panel installed on a top side of the housing, nor does it teach an input panel positioned at a different position from the button.** As O'Connor shows in Fig.1, the window area resides either on the side of the housing, as does the window area 113, or on the actuation

switch 109, as does the window area 111. It is neither natural nor convenient for a user to apply a stylus to a window area on the side of the housing or on the actuation switch.

Since O'Connor in conjunction with Wagner does not teach an input panel installed on a top side of the housing, which is positioned on the housing other than the position of the button, O'Connor in view of Wagner does not anticipate the present invention according to the currently amended claim 1, and reconsideration of claim 1 is hereby requested. Since claims 2-4 are dependent on the amended claim 1, claims 2-4 should be allowed if the currently amended claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-4 is politely requested.

4. Addition of new claim 6:

Claim 6 has been newly added to emphasize the outstanding feature of the present invention. **Claim 6 contains a limitation stating that the input panel is used for inputting text data by working with word-processing software, and the text data inputted into the input panel will be transmitted to a computer.** Support for this newly added claim 6 can be seen in Fig.2 and Fig.3, and can be found in line 32 of page 5 through line 3 of page 6 of the written specification. The pointing devices 50, 100 are both capable of working with word-processing software, such that text data can be inputted through the input panels 56, 106 without using a keyboard.

On the other hand, O'Connor shows, in Fig.2, a window area

201 for capturing a fingerprint image 203, and the captured fingerprint image will be further processed to perform an identification process. Wagner shows in Fig.1 a glass screen 27 for receiving handwritten inputted data by a stylus 24, and the received handwritten data will be further processed to perform an identification process. However, neither O'Connor nor Wagner teach or suggest by working with word-processing software, text data can be inputted through the input panel and transmitted to a computer. As Wagner shows in Fig.1 and describes in the written specification, the handwritten data inputted through the glass screen 27 is processed to perform identification and verification. The mouse 101 of O'Connor in view of Wagner cannot function as a text input interface for a user.

Since O'Connor in conjunction with Wagner does not teach an input panel for inputting text data by working with word-processing software, O'Connor in view of Wagner does not anticipate the present invention according to the newly added claim 6. Consideration of claim 6 is politely requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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